

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for Farnham Urban,

1908.

I beg to report that I have received during the year 65 notifications under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, namely, 29 of Diphtheria, 21 of Scarlatina, 12 of Measles and 3 of Erysipelas. This is one less than last year, showing no appreciable difference. The following table shows their distribution in the year.

MONTH.	DIPHTHERIA.	SCARLATINA.	MEASLES.	ERYSIPELAS.
January	2	9	..	..
February	5	5	5	..
March	2	2	4	..
April	3	..	..	..
May .....	..	1	1	1
June	6	1	..	..
July	7	..	..	..
August	3	..	..	..
September .....	..	..	..	..
October	1	1	..	..
November .....	..	1	1	1
December .....	..	1	1	1
Totals	29	21	12	3

Scarlatina.—Of the 21 cases 14 occurred in January and February; 4 of these appeared to have been due directly to the carelessness of a family who had had 4 inmates removed to the Isolation Hospital suffering from Scarlatina shortly before; but the remaining 10 as well as those occurring during the other months were due to some undiscoverable source; there never was anything of the nature of an epidemic, nor did I at any time suspect the schools as being the cause. There were 3 deaths in the Isolation Hospital from this disease. With reference to the set of cases early in January which I considered to have been due to the carelessness of an individual, I should like to say that I think the most likely methods for the control of Scarlet Fever epidemics must be looked for in the following directions, namely:—

1. To get efficient isolation of the patient (whether in an Isolation Hospital, or not, depend on the special circumstances of the case).
2. To visit the premises and interview the parents or relations of the patient, and, instead of devoting ones energies towards trying to trace the source of infection, to be sure that the parent understands how easy it is to spread the infection to other persons and through what a multiplicity of channels it may be spread.
3. To find out all the inhabitants of the house and their various occupations and to send written notices to all schools possibly affected, and to all employers of labour to whose premises inmates of the infected house would go to work, advising that they should not be received at school, or at work, as the case may be, for a week.
4. Prompt closure of any school as soon as one is convinced that the disease is being spread by its scholars.
5. To get the premises properly disinfected after the removal of the patient to the Isolation Hospital, and to take great pains to make the relations allow all the clothing, or toys, to be disinfected, instead of keeping back as many as possible for fear they will be injured in the process. Considering our incomplete knowledge of when a person ceases to be infectious after apparent recovery I think precautions on these lines offer the best means of checking epidemics when they occur.

Diphtheria.—During the first 4 months of the year 12 cases occurred, but there was nothing to make me connect them together, and in May there was no case notified at all. During June, July and August, however, 16 cases occurred which constituted a small epidemic which was clearly traced to one particular class in West Street Council School. It will be interesting to recount the history of this epidemic, which, though small in point of numbers, had at one time a threatening appearance. On June 4 the teacher of Standard II in West Street Council School developed Diphtheria. On June 19 a boy in this standard developed it. On June 22 I examined the 24 boys who were present in Standard II and found 4 boys who had definitely suspicious-looking throats, and who, I suspect, had passed through a very slight Diphtheria without its having been noticed. I asked the Headmaster to exclude these 4 from school. There were also 3 others with very slightly suspicious throats whom I asked the Master to keep as separate from the others as possible without excluding them from the school. On June 25 an adult sister of one of the 4 excluded boys showed Diphtheria; I then had a bacteriological examination made of this boy's throat, and Hoffman's bacillus was found. On June 29 a little girl had Diphtheria who had 2 brothers at West Street Council School, one in Standard II and one in Standard VI. A swab from the throat of the brother in Standard II revealed Hoffman's bacillus also, so on June 30 I applied for an urgency order to close the whole school fearing that the boy in Standard VI might start the infection in another part of the School. This request was referred to a special meeting of the Sanitary Committee which issued an order to close from 1 July for 8 days. On 5th July I had notice of a case at the National (C. of E.) Schools Infant Department, the disease having been carried there by a child who had a brother in Standard II of the West Street Council School so I applied for a closing order for both schools from 6 July to 27 July. A few more cases occurred at the National School, but none after 10th (namely 4 days after closure) till after both schools re-opened on 27th July; then 2 more cases occurred at the West Street Council School and I closed again till end of term, and a little later, another case having occurred at the National School, I closed this also till end of term, and this finally stopped the epidemic. The points to note in this history are I think.

1. That there was an interval of 15 days between the first and second notified cases in this epidemic, but that on examining Standard II 3 days after the second case I found 7 boys who might have, and probably had, all of them passed through a recent attack, so I have no doubt this gap could easily be filled up if one had been able to discover the slight cases which had gone about entirely unrecognised.
2. The rapid effect which school closure appears to have on an epidemic, where the carriers of infection are in the school, supporting in my mind very strongly the theory that susceptible and non-susceptible children are brought together in schools, and that the susceptible children are more likely to take the disease from any infection with which they may be brought into contact in the comparatively confined air of the school than in the open air. It would seem fairly clear that the early closure of the two schools affected stopped the epidemic and saved the other schools, teaching again the lesson which was derived from the last epidemic of Measles where the same policy was followed.

Measles.—In February and March occurred 9 cases, but no connection was traceable between them, though it is probable there was some connecting link, if it could have been discovered. It never however assumed the proportion of an epidemic, nor did it implicate the schools. During the early part of the year Measles was prevalent at Aldershot and Godalming, and there was a suspicion in at least two cases that the infection had been imported from one or other of these. The 3 remaining cases occurred singly, and in one there was a suspicion that it had been imported also. There has been no death from this disease.

Erysipelas.—All the 3 cases were in adults and in each case the premises were inspected, but no sanitary defect was discovered. One death was caused by it.

Whooping Cough.—There was a considerable epidemic during the early summer, and two deaths were caused by it. East Street Council Schools suffered from it a good deal.

Chickenpox.—A few cases of this came under my notice in May more particularly among children at the East end of the town, and affecting the attendance at the East Street Council Schools.

influenza.—Two deaths were attributed to this cause but there was no epidemic.

Summer Diarrhoea.—This caused 2 deaths in infants, one in July and one in September but it was not specially prevalent at any time.

PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

Voluntary notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been in existence in theory for nearly 2 years, but I have received no notification, and I do not hear of any deaths from this cause till I see them in the monthly return, so that no action has been taken in cases of death. Only 4 persons died of this disease.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATE.

The birth-rate is rather less than last year, but the number is still 21 above the average of the last 10 years and 67 in excess of the number of deaths.

The death-rate is not satisfactory. The deaths at all ages as shown in the accompanying table are 104 in number, which is equal to a rate per 1000 living of 14.77, which is higher than any year since 1898, and 1.85 above the average of the last 10 years. In looking through the tabular statement annexed to this (Table IV.) there does not appear to be any special reason for this. Those occasioned by the Zymotic Diseases and Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been already alluded to, and

as regards other diseases Heart Disease has caused the death of 13 people, mostly in old age, Bronchitis and Pneumonia have caused respectively 3 and 4. The deaths among infants under 1 year old have been unusually numerous, namely 21, which equals a death rate of 2.98 per 1000 living, or 122.2 per 1,000 births registered. This rate is higher than any year since 1899 and 32.6 above the average of the last 10 years. This is very disappointing, as the last 3 years had yielded a rather low rate, namely an average of 67.6 per 1000 births. On examining the causes of this mortality (see Table V. annexed), one finds 7 deaths due to premature birth or congenital defect, and one to merasmus, 5 to convulsions, 4 to the Diarrhoeal Diseases, 2 to Whooping Cough, and one to Bronchitis. I have continued to distribute the card on Infant Feeding published by the Surrey County Council, and have also supplied the 4 midwives in my district with them for distribution to all the mothers they attend, and in other ways have tried to get them distributed. Considering this and the low mortality which up to this year I have had in my district, I advised the Council that it was not necessary to adopt the Notification of Births Act in a Special Report which I was asked to make in the early part of the year.

MONTH.	TOWN.				UNION.			
	DEATHS.		BIRTHS.		DEATHS.		BIRTHS.	
	Total per month.	Under 1 Year.	Zymotic Diseases.		Total per month.	Under 1 Year.	Zymotic Diseases.	
January	11	1	2	12	12	1	..	..
February	8	3	2	17	11	2	2	2
March	7	2	..	15	4	..	..	1
April	6	..	..	7	1	..	..	..
May	7	1	2	9	6	..	..	5
June	8	2	..	19	4	..	..	2
July	9	1	2	7	5	1	..	..
August	11	4	1	12	3	..	..	1
September	9	2	2	25	2	..	..	..
October	10	2	1	18	3	..	..	2
November	4	..	..	17	9	1	..	1
December	6	3	..	13	2	..	..	2
Brookwood Asylum	4	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
Isolation Hospital	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals....	104	21	12	171	66	5	2	16
Per 1000 per an.	14.77	2.98	1.70	24.29				
Ditto in 1907....	13.23	1.87	0.43	26.18				
Ditto in 1906....	12.55	1.75	1.75	25.98				

INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

There are only 4 Midwives in the Council's district; 3 of whom are actively practising their profession and one who does very little and does not appear to wish for more. They are four well-qualified women and quite competent to do the work they are undertaking. I made formal visits for the purpose of inspection to all of them once in the year, and besides have had informal opportunities of meeting 3 of them and making myself acquainted with their methods of procedure during the year. They between them attended about 142 cases, with only 4 stillbirths, and no case of puerperal fever. I reported on the year's work to the Medical Officer of Health for the County on 31st December, 1908.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

As I am not appointed to supervise the Inspection of School Children under the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907, I merely continue my supervision of the Schools in the district as before. I have inspected each School once at least in each term and find that the air space and ventilation in them all is good: The closets are on the trough principle (which in my mind is not the best), and in the case of the National (C. of E.) School, which is an old school and the closets closer than should be to the School building, owing to the somewhat confined space in which the Schools are built, there is occasionally a little smell, though every possible care is taken to prevent it, by cleansing and disinfecting constantly. The water supply of all the Schools is good and abundant.

Besides these visits I have been frequently to the Schools, enquiring or instructing about infectious, or contagious, diseases, notably during the epidemic of Diphtheria, of which I give an account under that heading; and also during the epidemic of Whooping Cough, which in May interfered so much with the educational efficiency of East Street Council Schools. Perhaps in this connection I may allude to the somewhat unsatisfactory relations existing between the local Educational Authorities, and the M.O.H. The Managers, it would appear, have no power to close a School, when the School has become inefficient from reduction of numbers in attendance from medical reasons, such as prevalence of whooping cough, or chicken pox, without the certificate of a doctor, and on the other hand the M.O.H. very often is only consulted when the epidemic is already so far advanced that he thinks no good can come (from a public health point of view), in giving the certificate, and so declines to give one for assisting the Managers in a question which has drifted into one of purely Educational expediency. I would like to suggest that under certain conditions the Managers might have power given them to close a School for such medical reasons as are outlined above, in addition to the discretionary closing powers which they already possess. I may say that I reported fully to the Education Medical Officer at the end of each term.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The useful work of this Institution has been continued during the year, and of the 50 cases of Diphtheria and Scarlatina only 4 did not go into it, and in one of these it was because the child died before it could be removed.

A new Observation Block has been erected here, and when furnished will be ready for use; it contains 4 small wards, and should prove of great use in the management of the doubtful cases, which continue to occur occasionally among those sent to the Hospital.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The town lies in an open valley running North East and South West with low hills to the North and South, up the slopes of which the town is extending, mostly on a sandy soil on the South side, but with a belt of clay to the North and gravel beyond. The houses are some of them old and in a few places, such as the yards running out of the principal streets, they are rather crowded together, and have not much open space about them, many of the back yards being very small, airless and sunless. Factory Yard and Beaver's Yard particularly want opening up by the removal of obstructive buildings. During the year 3 houses have been pronounced unfit for human habitation, namely, 2 in Red Lion Lane and 1 in Bridge Square; of these two, one in Red Lion Lane and one in Bridge Square have been made habitable, one remains still uninhabitable. One house in Church Lane, though not considered unfit for habitation, was pronounced a nuisance, owing to its dirty condition, and it has since been pulled down by the owner. A row of cottages in Brewhouse Yard were found to be in a very unwholesome condition owing to an imperfect drainage system: a fresh system has been provided and now they are in a satisfactory condition as regards this. Building is going on on the outskirts of the town, some houses of a very good class being built, besides many of the small villa type, as well as cottages. All plans are submitted to and examined by the Sanitary Committee and only passed if in accordance with the Council's bye-laws.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is good for the whole district. The old supply from the Farnham Water Company's ground at Hale is still used, but the piece of ground which has been reported on so often and so unfavourably, because of the possibilities of dangerous pollution, has been disused, and the supply of water from it no longer comes into the town supply; the rest of the water supplied by this Company comes from a deep well, and analysis of samples of its water almost uniformly yields excellent results. The Wey Valley Company also supplies a portion of the district, and its water is of good quality. The quantity also is sufficient, and there are very few premises which have not a constant service laid on for drinking purposes and for flushing closets.

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES, SEWERING AND SCAVENGING.

The following nuisances have been abated:—

- Drains altered, amended and repaired, 9.
- Premises repaired, 7.
- Premises cleansed, 4.
- Slaughter houses amended and repaired, 2.

Practically, the whole of the district where houses exist is sewered and drained, and no portion of the district is in urgent need of sewerage extension; the only extensions made during the year were about 200 yards in York Road, and 80 yards in Old Farnham Lane, which was for the purpose of sewerage houses which were being erected.

The sewers and drains are in fair order, having regard to the number of years they have been in use. The sewers are regularly flushed, and in some places, where, owing to the very little fall which they have, it is occasionally found necessary to dredge them. The rain water is (as far as is practicable under existing laws and other circumstances), excluded from the sewers. The means of excrement disposal is almost wholly water-carriage.

During the year the Council have employed a man (at the suggestion of the Sanitary Inspector and acting under his supervision), who visited all the houses in the district for the purpose of cleansing gulleys, opening inspection chambers, inspecting traps, and ascertaining if the drains and sanitary fittings were in efficient action, and giving practical instruction to the inhabitants as to the need of such precautions. The man carried with him a spraying machine and disinfectant solution, and sprayed the yard surfaces round gulleys and drains, and all places likely to be infected or to breed flies. The Council have agreed that this very good sanitary work shall be repeated periodically as occasion may require.

The sewage disposal works consist of tanks of a capacity equal to about 40% of the dry weather flow per day, engine house, sludge beds, refuse depot, and sewage farm. The treatment of the sewage is carried out as follows:—

1. Subsidence and straining in tanks.
2. Pumping to farm.
3. Treating with lime in distributing tank at farm.
4. Application to land on the ridge and furrow system.

The greater part of the sludge arising from No. 1 process is mixed with domestic ashes and refuse, and sold to farmers, who dispose of it on land.

The Council are now carrying out works of addition and improvement to the sewage treatment works as follows:—

Concreting sludge beds at pumping station, improving tanks and chambers, and making storm water filter-beds at the farm, which are being done out of a loan sanctioned by the L.G.B.

The Council undertakes the collection and disposal of domestic refuse by a weekly collection. Garden and trade refuse are also removed under regulations made by the Council. These latter are charged for at the rate of one penny per bushel, or 2/6 per one-horse load. The total quantity collected during the year amounted to about 1453 tons. The cost of collection is about 1/9 per ton. As opportunity arises, the ash-pits are being done away with, and sanitary dust-bins provided by the owners of property.

Inspection of Foods, &c.

All premises where food is prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, have been inspected at least once during the year, and action taken where necessary. Special attention has been paid to places where cooked meats and other foods are prepared for sale, and improvements made in respect of premises, utensils, storage and cleaning.

No officer of the Council is specially authorised or appointed to take samples of food or drugs for analysis under the provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs' Act, as at present the Acts are administered in the district by the County Council's Inspectors.

Inspection of Meat and Cattle in Market, Cow Sheds, and Slaughter Houses.

The Sanitary Inspector has been appointed to make special inspection, and he has from time to time inspected the cattle in the Market, cowsheds and slaughter houses, and reports that, generally, the best of cattle and sheep are slaughtered in the slaughter houses.

The cattle in the cowsheds were found to be in good condition and free from symptoms of disease.

He has visited the slaughter houses from time to time during the slaughtering of cattle and sheep, and has always found the meat and the organs of the animals in good condition and free from disease.

General Inspection of District.

The district is frequently and systematically inspected, and in parts where nuisances are likely to be found house-to-house inspection is carried out, and a census of the population occupying the houses taken.

Miscellaneous.

In March a complaint was made of an obnoxious smell from a large rubbish heap which the L. & S.W. Railway have by the side of their line near Weydon Mill. It was inspected in company with an official of the Railway Company by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and we found that it consists only of rubbish from their Stations, mostly waste paper which is burned there; it has been smouldering for years, and we did not think that any appreciable nuisance was caused by it, and so I did not advise the Council to take any action in the matter.

The Council have given me permission, at my request, to have bacteriological examinations made in any doubtful cases of disease which come under my notice, and where such an examination would be a protection to the public.

S. G. SLOMAN,

15th February, 1909.

M.O.H.

[Attached to this will be found the Annual Report for 1908 of the Medical Officer of Health upon Factories and Workshops].

Report on Factories and Workshops

for 1908,

IN

Farnham Urban District,

By THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

During November and December 1908 I inspected the Factories, Workshops and workplaces, &c., as follows:—

22 Factories, 36 Workshops or Workplaces, 14 Bakeries, 8 Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milk Selling Places, 9 Slaughter Houses, 2 Laundries and 2 Common Lodging Houses.

FACTORIES.

These are distinguished from Workshops as being places where the work is done by machinery moved by some power other than hand power, and in these cases the Factory Inspector enquires into all matters connected with the regulations of the Factory Act, and my duty consists only in ascertaining whether the sanitary arrangements are adequate (considering the number and sex of the workpeople employed) and in good order; also in satisfying myself that the means of escape in case of fire are sufficient in all factories where more than 40 persons are employed. Of the 22 factories inspected the following were found in good or passable order and with sufficient means of escape in case of fire:—

Mr. Crow, West Street	Mr. Mardon, Castle Street
„ Langham „	Messrs. Watney, Combe, Reid & Co., Castle Street
„ Elliott, „	„ Martin & Sturt, Borough
„ Worts „	„ Tompsett & Co., Longbridge
„ C. H. Faulkner, East Street	„ Hickley & Co., South Street
Messrs. Sturt & Goatcher „	„ Crosby & Co., „
„ Goddard „	„ Heath & Wiltshire „
„ Bell „	„ Goodenough, Downing Street
„ Barling & Son „	„ Pilgrims Way Motor Works
„ Messrs. Tily, Castle Street	

but the following were not quite satisfactory:—

Mr. MARCH, EAST STREET.—Here the outdoor closet was in a very neglected condition, the pan being very dirty and the flushing cistern out of order.

FARNHAM UNITED BREWERIES, LTD.—The closets in the yard for the use of the men were dirty and the flushing apparatus was not in working order.

FARNHAM GAS WORKS.—In the closet in the yard the pan had been broken so that when the flush of water came the water ran over on to the floor. I should recommend that letters should be sent to each of these asking for the defects to be remedied if it has not been already done.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

36 were inspected and 32 were in good or fair order, viz. :—

Messrs. Heath & Wiltshire, East Street	Mr. A. J. Bentall, Borough
„ Crosby & Co., „	„ H. K. Bentall, „
Misses Wharton, „	„ Somers, Edward's Yard, Borough
Mr. Baigent, „	„ Figg, Castle Street
„ Ayling, „	„ Bodkin, „
„ Usher, „	Mrs. Chuter, „
Miss Tigwell, „	Mr. Smither, Downing Street
Mr. Davis, 48, West Street	„ Elliott, „
„ Hart, „	„ A. W. Lee, „
Miss Walton, „	„ Ransom, Church Lane
Mr. Carter, Snelling's Yard	„ John Robins, Abbey Street
„ Bavis, Borough	Miss Wooding, South Street
„ Morgon, „	Mr. Beard, Station Road
„ Frisby, „	„ Kimber, White Post
„ Curtis, „	„ Smallbone, Hale Road
„ J. E. Spencer, Borough	Miss Brading, Tilford Road

I found defects sufficient to be taken note of:—

Mr. GERMAN, FACTORY YARD.—Here a stable and dung pit are immediately underneath the workshop which is on the first floor, and the smell from the stable and dung pit go straight up into the workshop. This should be prevented.

Mr. JACKMAN, WEST STREET.—In one of the outdoor closets used by the workpeople the cistern was out of order.

Mr. ROBINSON, c/o Mr. DAVIS, 48, WEST STREET.—This is a small hair-cutting shop partitioned off from Mr. Davis's house, and it has no ventilation provided at all. There is a good sized window looking on to the street, but it does not open. I would advise that he be asked to have the window altered so that it should open.

PEOPLE'S DRAPERY STORES, BOROUGH.—The pan of the outdoor closet is very dirty. He should be asked to see that it is kept clean.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES and MILKSHOPS.

There are now 8 places where milk is either produced or sold. Cows are kept in 3 and milk sent out, while in 5 milk is only sold.

In these last-mentioned 5 cases the conditions under which the milk is kept are either good or fairly satisfactory :—

Mr. Hawkes, East Street
Mr. E. H. Robins ,,
Miss Nash, West Street

Mr. Hume, Borough
,, Taphouse, Downing Street

Of the remaining 3, namely the dairy farms, I made 2 detailed examinations, and 2 reports, dated 24th April, 1908, and 29th July, 1908, respectively. The object of my inspections was to report fully on what arrangements were made for securing

1. The health and good condition of the cattle ;
2. The cleanliness of the milk vessels used, or containing milk for sale, and
3. The protection of the milk against infection, or contamination. I consider that the health and good condition of the cows is a most important factor in producing good milk, and must depend, to some extent, on cleanliness of themselves and their surroundings, including the air of their sheds, and sufficient light and ventilation.

The cleanliness of the milk vessels must depend on the care taken to cleanse them, and to keep them in a place which is quite clean, and where the air is sufficiently pure to prevent their becoming contaminated after cleansing. The milk must be protected from any external dirt, including that on the cows' udders, the hands of the milkers, an unclean condition of the vessels into which it is received, and an impure condition of the air of the place in which the cows are milked, or the milk stored after milking ; I will give the results of my inspection of the 3 premises, taken alphabetically.

Mr. BIDE, SNAILSLYNCH.—There are two cowsheds which for the purposes of the report we will call A and B. They are one on each side of a huge manure heap, which is approximately 55 feet square, and 2 or 3 feet deep, from the surface of which must be emitted a vast amount of noxious gas. This was cleaned out and gravelled after my second report, but when seen at the end of December had been allowed to reaccumulate. Shed A is on the South side of the manure yard ; the dimensions of this shed are 92 feet long, 14½ feet wide and 10 feet high ; in this shed are usually kept 22 cows ; this therefore allows about 60 feet of floor space and 600 cubic feet per cow. The lighting is fair, and the natural ventilation good, but the windows and doors all open direct on to the big manure yard. The drainage of Shed A is taken to a drain which opens just outside the building, and thence is conveyed by a drain to a cesspool which is close to the edge of the river : the floor of the shed, other than that portion used as stalls, was paved with pitchings which, owing to the roughness of its surface and the space between the stones, allowed offensive material to collect and made it practically impossible to keep the floor clean and sweet ; the walls, notwithstanding that they had been recently whitewashed were considerably splashed and soiled with cow dung ; this is owing to the very narrow space at the rear of the cows, the building being too narrow (only 14½ feet) to admit of sufficient space being devoted to the walk along the shed and the channel necessary to carry off the liquid drainage. The part of the floor on which the cows stand, or lie, appeared to be only sprinkled with lime and swept occasionally. Shed B is on the North side of manure yard, and usually contains 10 cows ; its measurements allow 56 feet of floor space, or 560 cubic feet per cow, and as to lighting, ventilation and mode of construction it is similar to Shed A. The teats and udders of the cows, with one or two exceptions which might have been recently soiled, were fairly clean, they and the hands of the milkers were washed before and during milking.

The dairy itself is in good order but is situated by the side of and with its door opening direct on to the farm road over which about 30 cows pass twice daily, and when inspected I found much dust on the surface of the milk in the open pans which had blown into the dairy off this road when the door was opened. Therefore, owing to the very dangerous position of the milk in the dairy and the proximity of the manure yard to the cow sheds, and that it (the manure yard) is so shut in on 3 sides as to make it almost necessary that foul emanations from it must contaminate the air of the cowsheds where the milking is done, and taking into consideration the condition of such yard and sheds structurally, I am of opinion that the care taken for the protection of the milk is not such as is necessary and proper, and further that until some material structural alterations are made, such protection is impracticable in the present buildings.

Mr. A. SIMMONDS, BOURNE MILLS.—Here are two Sheds, A and B. Shed A is on the north side of the manure yard ; this is triangular in shape, having sides about 40 feet long, is composed of all the manure of the farm, and its bottom is lower than the only drain from it. In Shed A are kept 8 cows, its measurements give about 770 cubic feet per cow ; the lighting is fair, and there is a

good amount of natural ventilation, but all the windows and doors are on the south side opening directly upon the large manure yard, so that the emanations from it must find their way into the cowsheds where the milking is done. Owing to the arrangements of the stalls the cows are somewhat crowded as to floor space, and owing to the narrow space behind them the walls appear to be constantly splashed with cow dung, and were much soiled at the time of my first visit, the floors of the sheds were paved with pitching stones which from the roughness of the surface and the holes between the stones allowed an accumulation of offensive material which could not be swept out, and did not drain out; there was a drain in the shed which ran direct into an open channel outside the building. Shed B is a small wooden building on the left side of this manure yard; its measurements only allow 40 square feet and 302 cubic feet for each of the 3 cows kept in it; the lighting and natural ventilation are fair, but the openings again were direct on to the manure yard; the walls were considerably splashed with cow dung which appeared to have been adhering to them for some time; the floor was paved with pitching stones and the drainage of both sheds was on to the surface of the manure yard mentioned above. The dairy was in fair order and the milk vessels in it looked clean, as also was the small quantity of milk I saw in it. The teats and udders of the cows were not in a thoroughly cleanly condition and were not washed before milking and no water was at hand for washing the hands of the milkers. At a subsequent visit I found that one considerable improvement had been made, namely, that the accumulation of manure had been almost removed, the bottom of the yard covered with lime, channels made to the lowest point where a drain pipe had been inserted, which will allow any liquid to drain away, and arrangements made to prevent accumulation in future. If the cowsheds are kept cleaner and more cleanliness exercised in the milking this dairy farm will be very much better.

Mr. STOVOLD, BROOMLEAF.—The cow stalls here are in a barn where the air space and natural ventilation are abundant. There is one door opening on to the manure yard, but it was closed at my visits, the principal door and windows being on the opposite side. This manure yard is about 50 feet square, and very disagreeable. The space between the cow stalls is well paved and in a fairly cleanly state, and channels for drainage run into a cesspit outside the barn: the teats and udders of the cows were found fairly clean and were washed before milking, as were also the hands of the milkers. Some milk vessels in the dairy were found to be somewhat imperfectly cleaned. The chief source of contamination likely to effect the milk was the manure yard along the side of which the cans of newly-milked milk were carried to reach the dairy, but the air in the shed where the cows are milked, owing to the relative position of it and the manure yard, was not likely to be much polluted; and the general arrangements for the protection of the milk were fair.

In all the three premises mentioned above water is laid on, but in none of them was there a supply in the sheds themselves, which would appear to be very desirable. I should very much like to see the use of specially-made sheds for milking purposes only, which should be kept scrupulously clean, and from which the milk should be removed to the dairy at once without ever going to the cowsheds or farmyard at all. This, I think, would be the best precaution which could be taken to safeguard the purity of the milk.

Correspondence between the Council and the Dairy Farmers has been going on and is still proceeding as a result of my two reports.

BAKERIES.

The following are in good or fair order:—

Mr. Stewart, West Street
 „ Darracott, „
 Messrs. Chuter & Son, Castle Street
 Mr. Ransom, South Street
 „ Rogers, Borough
 „ F. T. Burningham, Borough

Mr. Bunday, East Street
 „ Beesley, „
 „ Worsam, Downing Street
 „ Stacey, Bridge Square
 „ Browning, Abbey Street

I must remark, however, with regard to

Mr. J. L. BROWN, RIDGWAY ROAD.—The bakery itself was fairly clean but (1) it opens directly into the scullery of the house, which is objectionable. (2) The yard just outside is unpaved, and with an irregular surface which is practically uncleanable and was dirty at the time of my visit. (3) There is a dung heap in this yard (only 12 yards from the bakery) which does not conform to the Council's bye-laws. I would suggest that Mr. Brown be written to and asked to remedy this state of things at once.

Messrs. ROGERS & RANSOM, CASTLE STREET.—The stable yard is just outside the bakery and the stable a very few yards away. The stable was not drained efficiently and the surface-water channel in the yard was in bad repair. Mr. Ransom has promised to remedy this, and the work is actually in hand, only interrupted by the Christmas Holidays.

Messrs. BAILEY & Co., DOWNING STREET.—The bakery is attached to the house, though not actually communicating with a living room, and is not whitewashed or otherwise cleansed often enough.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These have been inspected frequently during the year by the Surveyor and by him and myself in December. I found in good or fair order

Mr. Stewart, West Street
 „ Follett, „
 „ Aylwin, „
 „ Stratford, „

Mr. Hawkins, East Street
 „ Price, 28, Downing Street
 „ Baker, „

but at Mr. STRATFORD'S SOUTH STREET, I found the bricks paving the yard loose, just where the channel from the stable empties direct on to the surface of the yard, allowing the liquid drainage from the stable to sink in between the bricks and remain there. I would suggest that Mr. Stratford be requested to have the bricks relaid and some channel made for carrying away the stable drainage.

Mr. SMART, DARVILL'S LANE.—There is a foul-smelling dung heap quite close to the slaughter house and much too near the Sanitary Laundry, it is decidedly a nuisance as at present kept. I mentioned this last year also.

LAUNDRIES.

The Sanitary Laundry at Darvill's Lane, and the Beaver's Laundry are both in good order.

LODGING HOUSES.

That of Mr. Mazzone in West Street is in good order.

Mr. Del Guidice, of Middle Church Lane, has much improved his premises. It is now in good order.

OUTWORKERS.

There are only two that I know of, viz. :—

Miss STEWART OF FENN'S YARD.—Her workroom is very good.

Mr. HOFVANDER, 34, CASTLE STREET.—Here the workroom is on the first floor with ample light and ventilation, but the floor of the room is very dirty, and the boards some of them rotten and broken away ; the yard into which it looks is also in bad repair and very dirty. These defects should certainly be made good.

S. G. SLOMAN,

30th December, 1908.

M.O.H., Farnham Urban.

